matter relating to contract employees and their grievances, specially in Engineers India Ltd. (EIL);

(b) whether any effort has been made to redress the grievances of contract employees;

(c) if so, the details of action taken so far;

(d) whether the problems put forward by the Association of EIL Contract Employees have been considered in positive direction; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Oil Sector PSUs are under obligation to comply with the applicable provisions of various labour laws including the contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

As far as Engineers India Limited (EIL) is concerned, the company is giving opportunity to contract employees in staff cadre for being considered against regular vacancies as and when these arise. For contract engineers, the Board of Directors of EIL have amended the recruitment rules for officers to provide *inter alia* that 50% of the vacancies/requirement of the management trainees arising from 2001 onwards will be filled on an annual basis from contract engineers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Sanctioned petrol pump and gas agencies in Bihar

†104. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the locations sanctioned for the petrol pump and gas agencies in Bihar, district-wise;

(b) the list of advertised locations out of them along with the date of advertisement;

(c) whether these locations have been allotted;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof, separately; and

(e) whether Government are going to appoint dealers at the vacant locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 102 retail outlet dealerships and 105 LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plans 1996-98 for the State of Bihar. Locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the Oil Companies from time to time and selection of dealers/distributors is made by the Dealer Selection Boards on merit based on the interview of the eligible candidates. Recently Government have set up 57 new Dealer Selection Boards all over the country of which 7 are for the State of Bihar. It generally takes about 6—12 months for the commissioning of the dealerships/distributors from the date of the interview.

Policy for transferring of IOC official

105. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any fixed policy for transferring of officials of Indian Oil Corporation who have been promoted or have completed their tenure at one place;

(b) whether a large number of officers posted at the Delhi airport office/ Depot of IOC have managed to overstay their tenure on political recommendations and other vested considerations;

(c) by when are these officers likely to be transferred;

(d) if not, the reasons for not transferring them; and

(e) the steps being taken to immediately rectify the situation so as the morale of the officers posted at difficult stations is not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has its own transfer policy for its officials. Usually, depending on the assignment at a location, an official is transferred during a period ranging from 3 to 8 years from one unit to another in the same location or to a different location. Under exceptional circumstances, an official is retained at a location for a longer duration.

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